



Think MerageFirst

An Alumni Guide to Career Support

Welcome

When I first joined the Merage School Career Center, I immediately connected to the tagline *Think MerageFirst*. To me it embodies a collective mindset of giving back and supporting the future of our degree programs, the students they serve and the community at large. Whether you *Think MerageFirst* in terms of volunteer time, financial giving or Executive Education opportunities, it simply means that we are working together to maintain the high value of a Merage School education.

As you know from your time as a student at the Merage School, active alumni engagement is important to career development and job search strategies. We couldn't agree more and invite you to consider a number of ways in which you can *Think MerageFirst* by actively engaging with current students through our career channels to further their professional development and support their job search efforts. We are so proud of these truly talented students who represent a wide variety of management levels, diverse backgrounds and industry experiences – they are well poised to help solve today's and tomorrow's business challenges.

Engaging with and supporting Merage School students is a key tenet of our *Career Everywhere* mantra, which focuses on a community-based approach to career outcomes. Support, growth and job opportunities are woven into the entire student experience and alumni connections based on the *Think MerageFirst* mindset are front and center.

This guide will walk you through the many ways in which you can give back through the Merage School Career Center, positively impacting career development and job search opportunities for future alumni. We look forward to connecting with you!!

Cynthia Rude
Executive Director

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Supporting Students Through The Merage School Career Center



Student Career Preparation

Increase job search success through a number of student-facing opportunities:

- Mock interviews and case preparation
- Resume reviews
- “Day in the Life” sessions
- Company site visit
- Networking availability



Recruiting Support

Connect us to your HR/hiring managers for access to student talent through the following activities:

- On campus/virtual recruiting and interviews
- Information sessions
- Informal “coffee chats”
- Resume collections
- Share job openings



Mentoring

Become a mentor to our students through a formal program or on an as-needed basis.

- Executive Mentor Program for MBAs
- LEADS for BAs
- Flash Mentoring



Experiential Opportunities

Provide direct experience to students through your company while getting needed support.

- Sponsor an in-classroom consulting project
- Internships
- Capstone projects (MSBA/MFIN)



Alumni/Student Networking

Lead or join networking events to help students polish their presentation skills while making important connections.

- MerageFirst Industry Nights
- Corporate panel discussions
- Company-specific interview preparation
- Virtual or in-person corporate site visits

Quick Ways for Alumni to Support Career Efforts

- Referral programs – if you have an internal referral program within your company, please contact us so we can help promote relevant opportunities and build a resume book for you.
- Hold a “virtual office hour” and schedule time to chat directly with students through 15-minute time-slots.
- Share your experience/recruiting tips with a group of students through a recorded 30-minute informational session.
- Serve as a flash mentor to Merage School students through The Anteater Network virtual mentoring platform.



Anthony Huang, MBA '15

Product Manager, Global Cloud at Ingram Micro, has been a strong advocate for Merage School students in their career journeys. He recently presented a virtual session where he gave students interested in product management advice on how to break into a very competitive field.

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The Merage School Business Programs

Inspired Leadership, Digitally Driven

As our lives become more digitally mediated, we must adapt both ourselves and our businesses for the disruption inherent in the digital environment. The Paul Merage School of Business has designed its curricula to give students the high-caliber, holistic preparation they need to become effective leaders in a digitally-driven world. MBA, MSBA, MSBTM, MPAc and MSEM graduates can work for 36 months full-time immediately upon graduation and the receipt of the Employment Authorization Document using the STEM programs' OPT extension.

Full-Time MBA (FTMBA)

FTMBA is an experientially-based, two-year general management program that provides solid training in core business areas including finance, marketing, information technology, strategy and operations with a focus on digital transformation. Through elective courses and certificate programs, deeper knowledge is developed in function or industry specialties. Students in this program average five or more years of professional work experience and come from locations around the globe.

Fully-Employed MBA (FEMBA)

FEMBA is designed to meet the needs of working professionals. The program can be completed in 24 to 33 months and provides the strengths of our full-time program delivered on a part-time basis. Students in this program average five years of professional work experience and are available for immediate employment throughout the year.

Executive MBA (EMBA)

EMBA is designed for experienced managers, senior-level professionals and entrepreneurs seeking CEO-level insights. This 21-month program emphasizes a functionally integrated approach for senior-level management with the option to do a specialization in healthcare management. Students in this program average 16 years of professional work experience.

Master of Finance (MFin)

MFin is a one-year intensive, full-time program that provides extensive, practical training for quantitative and analytical jobs in the field of finance. Graduates have a strong understanding of modern finance needed to solve complex problems found in the field of finance. The STEM-certified program prepares students for entry and mid-level finance positions such as risk management, asset and wealth management, real estate investment and corporate finance. Students average two years of work experience.

Master of Science in Business Analytics (MSBA)

MSBA is a one-year intensive, full-time program that prepares graduates for careers in big data and analytics. The STEM-certified curriculum includes three essential areas of training: data management, analytics methods and business context. Students learn how to handle large data sets, and apply a range of analytics to gain business insights relevant

to a specific business context in either data marketing or operations analytics. A two-quarter long capstone course provides an opportunity to gain experience solving real business problems. Students come from highly quantitative backgrounds and average two years of work experience.

Master of Professional Accountancy (MPAc)

MPAc is a one or two-year intensive program designed to prepare students for leadership roles in accounting and enables them to meet the educational requirements for the CPA licensure. Students average three years of professional work experience.

Master of Science in Biotechnology Management (MSBTM)

MSBTM is a two-year, full-time, joint degree program with studies in biotechnology and business. This STEM-certified program prepares scientists to take leadership roles in biotechnology, science and technology-based organizations. The coursework is equally split between advanced science and business topics. Students average up to one year of professional work experience.

Master of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (MIE)

MIE is designed to provide students with a deep understanding of the process of innovation and entrepreneurship and is the only graduate degree of its kind in the UC System. In addition to business coursework, MIE students focus heavily on identifying new venture opportunities through lean startup methodology, such as business model development, preparing a business plan, assembling a team and raising venture capital. With additional focus on deep experiential learning opportunities, MIE students are well-prepared for entry-level positions with startup ventures or corporate "intrapreneur" teams. Students average up to one year of professional work experience.

Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration (BA)

The Merage School enrolls approximately 1,000 Business Administration majors. Students earn a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration and can choose from emphases in Accounting, Finance, Information Systems, Marketing, Operations & Decision Technologies, and Organization & Management. This highly selective program receives over 12,000 applications for 280 seats and has one of the strongest incoming academic profiles on the UCI campus.

Contact Your Merage School Partner for Opportunities

Barbra Marangell
Director, Alumni Employer Relations
bmarange@uci.edu

Your resource for alumni engagement and mentoring

Nick Shaffer
Director, External Relations
nshaffer@uci.edu

Your resource for applied consulting and capstone projects

Ariel Shrader
Director, Development Operations
ashrader@uci.edu

Your resource for philanthropic support, Dean's Advisory Board and Dean's Leadership Circle membership

Mollee Elniski
Director, Office of Executive Education
melniski@uci.edu

Your resource for Executive Education programs



George Goodman, BA '11 and FEMBA '19

Senior Manager, Finance Data Management and Analytics at Edwards Lifesciences, spearheaded hosting a virtual site visit giving our students the opportunity to learn more about Edwards Lifesciences as an organization and specific programs for which they recruit at the graduate and undergraduate levels. He also recently spoke on insights from the employer side to undergraduate LEADS program students.

Merage School Career Center Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) Mission Statement

The Merage School Career Center is committed to fostering an inclusive environment where all students – regardless of culture, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability, religion or nationality – feel welcome, respected and supported to pursue career success. We dedicate ourselves to empowering all Merage School students through specialized training that honors all identities and by intentionally engaging with campus partners and employers.

We believe in embracing differences, that our strength as a community relies on these differences, and that our community will thrive if we can learn from and grow with each other.



UCI Paul Merage
School of Business

Leadership for a Digitally Driven World™

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